

Message Text

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 SECTO 05010

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SUBJECT: JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE BY U.S. SECRETARY OF
STATE CYRUS VANCE AND MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY SANTIAGO
ROEL, LOS PINOS, MEXICO CITY, MAY 4, 1978

FOLLOWING IS SECRETARY VANCE'S OPENING STATEMENT:

QUOTE: THIS IS GOING TO BE VERY BRIEF SO THAT WE CAN
ANSWER AS MANY QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE.

WE HAD A VERY FRUITFUL MEETING TODAY. WE REVIEWED THE
WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM DURING THE PAST YEAR
AND HEARD FROM THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES WHICH HAVE BEEN
ESTABLISHED UNDER THE FORM OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.
IT IS MY DEEP CONVICTION AND THAT OF PRESIDENT CARTER
THAT THE INITIATIVE WHICH THE TWO PRESIDENTS, PRESIDENT
LOPEZ PORTILLO AND PRESIDENT CARTER, STARTED A LITTLE
OVER A YEAR AGO HAS BEEN A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE ONE.

IT HAS PROVIDED US A FORMAT FOR DEALING WITH IMPORTANT
AND DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEAL WITH
THEM IN A CONCRETE FASHION AND PRODUCE CONCRETE RESULTS.

I THINK THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. IN ADDITION TO THAT,
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THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WHICH SECRETARY ROEL AND I
PARTICIPATE IN GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS
ON A GREAT VARIETY OF ISSUES, NOT ONLY AFFECTING THE
HEMISPHERE BUT ALSO OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS DEALING WITH
GLOBAL PROBLEMS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO IS PLAYING AN EVER INCREASINGLY

IMPORTANT ROLE AS A LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND IT IS EXTREMELY HELPFUL FOR US TO BE ABLE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES SO THAT WE MAY WORK TOGETHER IN INTERNATIONAL FORA TO TRY AND COPE WITH THESE PROBLEMS AND HOPEFULLY LEAD US ALONG THE ROAD TO A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD. FINALLY, MAY I EXPRESS MY DEEP THANKS TO SECRETARY ROEL AND ALL OF HIS COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR KINDNESS AND THE WARMTH OF THEIR RECEPTION AND FOR THE VERY HELPFUL AND FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS WHICH WE HAVE HAD.

SECRETARY ROEL: (BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT). GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS, MEMBERS OF THE MASS COMMUNICATION MEDIA, WE ARE BASICALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATEMENT THAT HAS BEEN MADE BY MR. VANCE. WE HAVE JUST FINISHED A VERY IMPORTANT CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO. SINCE LAST NIGHT WHEN WE HAD THE HONOR OF RECEIVING MR. VANCE AND THE MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO, WE FELT THE SAME KIND OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED DURING THE STATE VISIT PAID BY PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO FROM THE 14TH UNTIL THE 17TH OF FEBRUARY, 1977, TO THE UNITED STATES. THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM THAT IS COMPOSED OF THREE COMMITTEES, THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE, HAS WORKED WELL. OF COURSE, ALL HUMAN ACTIONS HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING PERFECTED BUT THE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY BOTH OF US SINCE THEN

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HAS BEEN THE INTERCOMMUNICATION OF OUR EXPERIENCES AND PARTICULARLY AN INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WE CAN SAY, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF MEXICO, THAT OUR SOVEREIGNTY HAS REMAINED FIRM, AS ALWAYS, AND THAT THE THREE GREAT CONCEPTS ON WHICH OUR CONFERENCE WAS BASED, WAS, OF COURSE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, THE DESIRE FOR FREEDOM ON THE PART OF OUR COUNTRY, DEMOCRACY, AND INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. I THANK MR. VANCE FOR WHAT HE SAID; I THANK THE MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION; I THANK MRS. VANCE WHO HONORED US WITH HER PRESENCE.

Q. MR. SECRETARY (VANCE), THERE ARE ISSUES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, ONE OF THEM IS THE SALE OF NATURAL GAS, MEXICAN NATURAL GAS, TO THE UNITED STATES; ANOTHER IS THE UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS, IN THE UNITED STATES, MEXICAN WORKERS; AND FINALLY, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE U.S. ENORMOUS TRADE DEFICIT, PURCHASE OF OIL FROM ABROAD, AND IN VIEW OF THE VAST RESERVES THAT MEXICO IS SAID TO HAVE, HAVE ANY OF THESE ISSUES BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE MEETINGS TODAY WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF MEXICO, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND WITH THE PRESIDENT?

SECRETARY VANCE: LET ME DEAL WITH THEM ONE BY ONE. THE

ISSUE OF NATURAL GAS DID NOT ARISE. IT IS NATURAL THAT IT WOULD NOT, AS YOU KNOW WE ARE IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE MIDST OF A DEBATE ON OUR ENERGY BILL. ONE OF THE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THAT IS THE QUESTION OF GAS PRICES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES, OUR DOMESTIC PRICES. UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES UNTIL THAT DEBATE IS COMPLETED, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR US TO DISCUSS THIS WITH OTHERS OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE QUESTION OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS DID COME UP FOR DISCUSSION. THIS HAS BEEN A MATTER WHICH HAS CONSUMED A

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GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION BY THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES. AS YOU KNOW, A NUMBER OF STUDIES ARE GOING ON AT THIS POINT BOTH IN MEXICO AND IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH BEAR UPON THIS QUESTION. WE HAVE AGREED TO EXCHANGE THE RESULTS OF THOSE STUDIES WHICH WILL BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. IN ADDITION, AS I BELIEVE MANY OF YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS SENT FORWARD TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES LEGISLATION WHICH DEALS WITH THIS ISSUE. HEARINGS HAVE JUST COMMENCED IN OUR CONGRESS AND I ASSUME THAT THESE HEARINGS WILL CONTINUE FOR QUITE A LONG PERIOD OF TIME.

I BELIEVE YOUR LAST QUESTION HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH OIL. WOULD YOU REPEAT IT?

Q. IN VIEW OF THE CONTEXT OF THE TRADE DEFICIT OF THE U.S., A LARGE PART OF WHICH HAS TO DO WITH IMPORTS OF OIL, AND IN VIEW OF MEXICO'S SAID TO BE LARGE RESERVES OF PETROLEUM, WAS THIS QUESTION DISCUSSED AT ALL IN YOUR MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY ROEL AND WITH THE PRESIDENT?

A. THE SUBJECT WAS COMMENTED ON IN GENERAL TERMS, BUT LET ME SAY THE TWO KEY THINGS WHICH ARE NECESSARY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT THIS POINT IS TO GET ON WITH AN ENERGY BILL WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY
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FRAMEWORK FOR CUTTING BACK ON THE CONSUMPTION OF OIL IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN ADDITION TO THAT IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THE UNITED STATES FOR US TO TAKE ACTION IN THE INFLATION FIELD. AND I'M SURE YOU ALL KNOW THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SPOKEN OUT ON THIS AND HAS INTRODUCED AN ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM WHICH I BELIEVE IS GOING TO BE NOT ONLY IMPORTANT BUT EFFECTIVE.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, YOU TALKED ABOUT CONCRETE RESULTS FROM THESE MEETINGS. COULD YOU GIVE US SOME EXAMPLES?

SECRETARY VANCE: WELL, IF YOU HAD A CHANCE TO READ THE JOINT REPORT, I THINK YOU WILL SEE A WIDE NUMBER OF CONCRETE ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THE LAST YEAR IN EACH ONE OF THE AREAS AND THE SUB-AREAS, NAMELY IN THE AREA OF THE ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP, IN THE SOCIAL GROUP AND IN THE POLITICAL GROUP. IN ADDITION TO THAT, WE SIGNED TODAY TWO TREATIES, ONE DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF MARITIME AFFAIRS AND BOUNDARIES, THE SECOND WITH EXTRADITION, AND THIRD WAS THE TOURISM AGREEMENT. I THINK THIS IS GOING TO BE IMPORTANT TO BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES AND WILL BRING BENEFIT TO BOTH OF THEM.

Q. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, MR. SECRETARY, THE MEXICO CITY NEWSPAPERS RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE BRACERO PROGRAM, ITS PROS AND CONS AND SO FORTH, AND ITS FEASIBILITY. THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME FEELING HERE THAT A RENEWAL OF THE BRACERO PROGRAM ON A VERY LARGE AND VERY REGIMENTED BASIS WOULD BE A MORE FEASIBLE RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL ALIENS THAN WOULD BE THE AMNESTY CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON. MY QUESTION IS THIS: IS THERE ANY SERIOUS DISCUSSION GOING ON RIGHT NOW IN WASHINGTON
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OVER THE RENEWAL OF THE BRACERO PROGRAM ON A LARGE SCALE BASIS? IF NOT, WHY NOT, AND IF SO WHEN AND WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD BE THE FINAL OUTCOME?

SECRETARY VANCE: THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS A VERY SIMPLE ONE. NO. THE PRESIDENT MADE THIS VERY CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO INTENTION TO REINSTITUTE THE BRACERO PROGRAM. THE REASON FOR IT IS, IN PART, THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS PUT BEFORE THE CONGRESS A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM WHICH DEALS WITH THE PROBLEM OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS IN A BALANCED AND THOUGHTFUL WAY. WE WILL BE ADDRESSING OUR ATTENTION TO THAT BILL AND THE REACTION OF THE CONGRESS TO IT.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK A QUESTION OF BOTH OF THE SECRETARIES. SECRETARY ROEL, YOU SPOKE ABOUT KEEPING FIRM THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MEXICO. I WONDER WHAT YOU MEANT BY THAT? COULD YOU EXPLAIN IT IN A BIT MORE DETAIL? AND TO MR. VANCE, IT IS SAID THAT MEXICO MAY SELL OIL TO CUBA AND THAT THERE MAY BE A GAS PIPELINE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA. HOW DOES THE UNITED STATES VIEW THESE TWO POSSIBLE PROJECTS THAT MEXICO HAS?

SECRETARY ROEL: (BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT). YES, I DID MENTION THE WORD SOVEREIGNTY BECAUSE HISTORICALLY MEXICO HAS ALWAYS CONTINUED WITH ITS STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN ITS SOVEREIGNTY FIRM. IN A STATE OF LAW SUCH AS THE ONE THAT PREVAILS IN MEXICO, ONE OF THE IMPORTANT CONCEPTS OF LEGAL PHILOSOPHY, WHICH COMES FROM BODINO, BOTH AS A CONCEPT AND AS A WORD, SOVEREIGNTY IS SOMETHING WHICH WE CAN CONSIDER IN THE FORM OF A TRIANGLE. SOVEREIGNTY MUST BE HAD, IT CANNOT BE DIVIDED AND IT CANNOT BE CEDED TO ANYONE ELSE.

PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO, AFTER HE TOOK OFFICE ON THE 1ST OF DECEMBER, 1976, VERY CLEARLY STATED IN HIS INAUGURAL UNCLASSIFIED

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ADDRESS, PRECISELY THAT MEXICO WOULD ALWAYS MAINTAIN THE PRINCIPLES IN INTERNATIONAL POLICY WHICH ARE THE PRODUCT OF OUR HISTORY, AND WHICH YOU KNOW VERY WELL, SELF-DETERMINATION, NON-INTERVENTION, THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS, AND THE SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF STATES. HE ADDED TWO OTHER VERY IMPORTANT THINGS. THE TREATIES AT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLES, MAINTAIN A PRINCIPLE AND THIS PRINCIPLE IS TO RESPECT THE GOOD FAITH OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES.

BUT HE ALSO ADDED TWO GOLDEN RULES WHICH ARE VERY IMPORTANT. TO MAINTAIN FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, AND NOT TO ASK ANY COUNTRY FOR WHAT UNDER EQUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, MEXICO IS NOT WILLING TO GRANT. WITHIN THAT CONTEXT, THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MEXICO, CLEARLY ESTABLISHED BY INTERNATIONAL POLICY, AND BY OUR OWN THESES, WHICH COME FROM THE HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE OF MEXICO; IN THIS RESPECT I CAN STATE THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MEXICO HAS BEEN KEPT FIRM WITHIN A RELATIONSHIP OF PERFECT INTERDEPENDENCE WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

SECRETARY VANCE: I BELIEVE I WAS ASKED TWO QUESTIONS. ONE RELATED TO THE POTENTIAL SALE OF OIL TO CUBA BY MEXICO AND THE SECOND RELATED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF
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MEXICO BUILDING A PIPELINE TO GUATEMALA. BOTH OF THESE DECISIONS ARE OBVIOUSLY DECISIONS THAT CAN AND SHOULD BE MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, IN THE LIGHT OF THE UPCOMING VISIT OF THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT TO THE SOVIET UNION, DID YOU BRIEF HIM ON YOUR RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH THE SOVIET LEADERS, AND FURTHERMORE, DID YOU ASK HIM TO ADD TO THE AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS THE SOVIET UNION?

SECRETARY VANCE: LET ME ANSWER YOUR FIRST QUESTION. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SECOND ONE. THE ANSWER IS YES, I DID DISCUSS WITH BOTH PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AND WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ROEL THE SUBJECT OF MY RECENT TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THE VARIOUS DISCUSSIONS THAT I HAD WITH

THE SOVIET LEADERS DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME. I ALSO EXPRESSED MY VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO THE GENERAL NATURE OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND THE GENERAL TONE OF CHARACTER OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SECOND QUESTION.

Q. DID YOU ASK HIM TO SUPPORT THE AMERICAN POLICY?

SECRETARY VANCE: THE DECISION OF WHAT THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO SAYS OR DOESN'T SAY IS CLEARLY THEIR DECISION TO MAKE.

Q. I'M JUST A BIT PUZZLED BY WHY THE GOVERNMENTS OF MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE EXCHANGING ALL THESE STUDIES ON THE QUESTION OF UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS, WHEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE MADE UP ITS MIND ABOUT WHAT ITS POLICY SHOULD BE. I'M JUST WONDERING TO WHAT EXTENT THE ADMINISTRATION IS WILLING TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT UNCLASSIFIED

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MEXICO'S POSITION ON THE SUBJECT, ABOVE ALL ITS APPARENT OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSALS AS THEY NOW STAND.

SECRETARY VANCE: THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A COMMON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEM, AND ONE ON WHICH WE CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT EACH OTHER'S VIEWS. THAT HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST, AND OF COURSE WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE IN THE FUTURE. UNQUOTE. VANCE

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